

Message Text

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ACTION SY-04

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 SSO-00 /011 W
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FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8216

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTEVIDEO 465

E.O./ 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEC

SUBJECT: FULLY ARMORED CARS

REF: (A) STATE 004686 (B) STATE 027097 (C) MVD 441

1. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONCERNING GENERAL WEIGHT AND BALANCE, SHOCK ABSORBERS, SPRINGS, AND OTHER PROBLEMS WHICH AFFECT THE MANEUVERABILITY, STABILIOJ AND OVERALL CONDITION OF THE SY 69 FORD GALAXY AND SY 71 PLYMOUTH FURY HAVE BEEN VERIFIED BY RSO SINCE REFTTEL (C) SENT. THESE PROBLEMS WHEN COMBINED WITH THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN REF. C REQUIRE RE STATEMENT OF THE CONDITION OF BOTH VEHICLES.

2. ADDITIONAL INVESTIGATION HAS REVEALED PROBLEMS WITH THE BALAXY'S FRONT END AND GENERAL SUSPENSION WHICH MAKE THE CAR EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO CONTROL ON WET ROADS AND UNSTABLE ON CURVES IN ANY ROAD CONDITION. THIS DANGEROUS CONDITION SEEMS TO BE INHERENT IN THE VEHICLE AND CANNOT BE CORRECTED. THIS CAR IS FIVE YEARS OLD

AND IS SHOWING THE EFFECTS OF URUGUAY'S POOR ROADS, ITS HIGH MILEAGE AND OVERWEIGHT, AND SEVERAL ACCIDENTS IN WHICH IT HAS BEEN INVOLVED; FURY ALSO HAS HAD A NUMBER OF HIGH IMPACT ACCIDENTS. BOTH VEHICLES ARE FULL OF SQUEAKS AND RATTLES WHICH ONLY COMPLEYJIRAZVMUFACTURE COULD OVERCOME. IT IS ALSO IMPOSSIBLE TO OBTAIN PARTS LOCALLY FOR EITHER THE GALAXY OR FURY AND THE POST HAS BEEN NOTIFIED THAT SY WASHINGTON EXPERIENCES DIFFICULTY IN OBTAINING PARTS FOR THESE CARS. BOTH HAVE FREQUENTLY BEEN OUT OF SERVICE FOR WEEKS AND EVEN MONTHS AT A TIME.

3. THE GALAXY, ONE OF THE FIRST ARMORED CARS SUPPLIED POSTS,
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IS ALSO VERY CONSPICIOUS AND ITS EXTREMELY THICK WINDOWS

FREQUENTLY FALL DUE TO THEIR OVERWEIGHT.

4. AS A RESULT OF THESE FACTS THESE CARS MUST BE DESCRIBED AS BEING IN POOR CONDITION AND CURRENTLY UNFIT AS SECURITY VEHICLES. THEIR REPLACEMENT IS URGENT.
 5. THIS REPORT REPLACES MVD 441 WHICH SHOULD BE IGNORED AS TO ITS ASSESSMENT OF CONDITION AND LONGEVITY OF VEHICLES.
- SIRACUSA

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MONTEV00465
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750051-0391
From: MONTEVIDEO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750250/aaaabsxp.tel
Line Count: 68
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SY
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 004686, 75 STATE 027097, 75 MVD 441
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 SEP 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <14 OCT 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FULLY ARMORED CARS
TAGS: ASEC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006